

(C O P Y)

November 16, 1929.

S
Insect Control

The Forester,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

The following report on insect conditions on the several Forests in this District is submitted for your information and action. The situation on the Coconino, Tusayan, Prescott and Crook Forests is covered quite fully in Ranger McNelty's and Mr. Wales' reports, copies of which are attached, hence it is not considered necessary to repeat the information here. It is regretted that we were not able to submit the report by November 1, but felt it advisable to await Mr. Wales' return from his insect survey trip before submitting the report.

Apache - Conditions reported entirely normal.

Carson - The spruce budworm infestation built up considerably during the past summer in several places on this Forest. The tent caterpillar infestation on aspen was very heavy again this year and stripped practically all of the trees on the Canjilon District, northwestern part of the Vallecitos District and the Vallecitos drainage of the Tres Piedras District. The infestation seems to be moving northward. The aspen is not seriously injured. It has been suggested that the defoliation of the aspen may be of considerable value to coniferous reproduction which is coming in under the aspen in that it gives the reproduction greater light for a considerable period and at the same time there is more moisture available through lessened transpiration of the aspen.

Coronado - Conditions continue normal.

Datil - Conditions remain normal. The beetle attack previously reported near the Hughes mill following the windthrow of 1923 remains quiescent.

Gila - Conditions reported normal.

Lincoln - A subsidence of the two principal infestations, viz., the looper on the Cloudcroft reserve and *Dendroctonus engelmanni* in Hay Canyon is reported. Local officers continued their systematic observations until heavy snowfall in late October. They failed to find any appreciable number of caterpillars - none after the latter part of August. The same is also true of chrysalids. Heavy winds were reported in May when the moths were flying. This may or may not have had beneficial effect. 200 *Calosoma* beetles (*C. sycophanta*) were released on the Cloudcroft reserve area on July 4. With but one exception, two weeks after release Forest officers were unable to find any of the beetles. It can not be stated definitely, therefore, that the beetles were effective in controlling the situation. Ips were reported in the vicinity of the Kranz sale area. Losses, however, were very light. On this sale brush and other logging debris were cleaned up immediately following the operation and kept cleaned up throughout the summer.

Manzano - The infestation reported a few years ago on the Tajique area continues quiescent. An infestation by *D. barberi* was reported on areas of varying size on private land operated by the Breece Lumber Company in the vicinity of McGaffey. Poles and saplings were principally affected. The situation is not serious. There is a considerable seed crop on the Mt. Taylor District this year with but very little loss from cone weevil when compared to the 1927 loss. Taken as a whole, the situation on this Forest is normal.

Santa Fe - During the year outside of the spruce budworm infestation, conditions were normal. The budworm infestation became very acute in 1928. Heavy precipitation in May seemed to have influenced the infestation beneficially. During June, however, which was very dry, there was evidence of renewed activity which continued into July, but with the heavy rains in the latter part of that month and in August and September activity appeared to subside very materially. No extension of the infested area has been noted and it is hoped the unusual climatic conditions will result in a permanent reduction of the activity of this pest.

Sitgreaves - Conditions reported normal.

Tonto - Conditions reported normal.

This District is endeavoring through offering correspondence study courses and through personal contact, to train the personnel in elementary Forest Entomology - particularly to train them to recognize incipient epidemics. Considerable progress is being made yet the need for the assignment of an entomologist to the Southwest is more keenly felt than ever. In Mr. Wales' memorandum report he points out a number of cases where it is felt to be advisable to have the advice of an expert. It is understood Senior Entomologist Miller of the Palo Alto Station plans on visiting the Prescott in the spring of 1930, and it is hoped that it will be possible for him to extend his visit so as to examine additional areas. An allotment should be made to cover his expenses or the expenses of some other member of his staff while in the District. If he could stay a month or six weeks, an allotment of \$300 to \$350 will be needed. All of the areas outlined for examination in Mr. Wales' report can very readily be visited after about April 15. A study of the budworm and aspen infestations must necessarily be made later in the year.

It is believed that control work should be continued on the Prescott and Turkey Creek areas primarily on the basis of maintenance control so as not to lose the ground already gained. Therefore this District will appreciate an allotment from Insect Control funds of \$1800 as recommended by Supervisor Grubb, plus \$350 to cover expenses of an entomologist for a period of about six weeks if such a detail can be arranged. Experienced men to form a nucleus of the control crew on the Prescott are available so that the work can be started immediately upon receipt of the authorization.

Very truly yours,

FRANK C.W. POOLER, District Forester

By (s) Hugh G. Calkins, Acting.

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